

CLAIMS

1. A gasket for preventing high-temperature fluid of an internal combustion engine from leaking, the gasket being located between an adjacent pair of components of the engine, the gasket being **characterized by**:

a gasket plate made of an electrically insulating material, the gasket plate having a hole; and

an annular sealing member made of a material having a higher heat resistance than the gasket plate, wherein the annular sealing member covers part of the gasket plate that defines the hole.

2. The gasket according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the fluid is combustion gas generated as the engine operates.

3. The gasket according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the pair of the components are a cylinder block and a cylinder head, the cylinder block having a cylinder bore, and wherein the hole is formed to correspond to the cylinder bore.

4. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the electrically insulating material is a synthetic resin.

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5. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that** the annular sealing member includes:

a pair of holding portions that hold the gasket plate in between; and

30 a coupler portion that couples the holding portions to each other in the hole.

35 6. The gasket according to claim 5, **characterized in that** the annular sealing member is formed by bending a plate member.

7. The gasket according to claim 5 or 6, **characterized by** a deformation restricting portion that restricts deformation of the annular sealing member along the thickness of the
5 gasket plate.

8. The gasket according to claim 7, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion extends along the thickness of the gasket plate between the holding portions.
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9. The gasket according to claim 8, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion has a length that is substantially equal to the thickness of the gasket plate.

15 10. The gasket according to any one of claims 7 to 9, **characterized in that** the deformation restricting portion is formed by bending part of one of the holding portions toward the other holding portion.

20 11. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 10, **characterized in that** the internal combustion engine has a cylinder, and the gasket plate is formed of a single plate member, the gasket further comprising:

25 a sensor for detecting a state in the cylinder, the gasket plate having a guide hole, wherein a lead extending from the sensor passes through the guide hole.

30 12. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 11, **characterized in that** the high heat resistance material is a stainless steel.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 06 July 2005 (06.07.05)
original claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 amended; original claims 5 and 7 cancelled;
and remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

1. A gasket for preventing high-temperature fluid of an internal combustion engine from leaking, the gasket being

5 located between an adjacent pair of components of the engine, wherein the gasket includes:

a gasket plate made of an electrically insulating material, the gasket plate having a hole; and

10 an annular sealing member made of a material having a higher heat resistance than the gasket plate, wherein the annular sealing member covers part of the gasket plate that defines the hole,

wherein the annular sealing member includes:

15 a pair of holding portions that hold the gasket plate in between; and

a coupler portion that couples the holding portions to each other in the hole,

the gasket being **characterized by**:

20 a deformation restricting portion that restricts deformation of the annular sealing member along the thickness of the gasket plate.

25 2. The gasket according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the fluid is combustion gas generated as the engine operates.

30 3. The gasket according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the pair of the components are a cylinder block and a cylinder head, the cylinder block having a cylinder bore, and wherein the hole is formed to correspond to the cylinder bore.

35 4. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the electrically insulating material is a synthetic resin.

35 5. (cancelled)

6. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that the annular sealing member is formed by
bending a plate member.

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7. (cancelled)

8. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
characterized in that the deformation restricting portion
10 extends along the thickness of the gasket plate between the
holding portions.

9. The gasket according to claim 8, **characterized in that**
the deformation restricting portion has a length that is
15 substantially equal to the thickness of the gasket plate.

10. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 9,
characterized in that the deformation restricting portion is
formed by bending part of one of the holding portions toward
20 the other holding portion.

11. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 10,
characterized in that the internal combustion engine has a
cylinder, and the gasket plate is formed of a single plate
25 member, the gasket further comprising:

a sensor for detecting a state in the cylinder, the
gasket plate having a guide hole, wherein a lead extending
from the sensor passes through the guide hole.

30 12. The gasket according to any one of claims 1 to 11,
characterized in that the high heat resistance material is a
stainless steel..